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(54) Sheet feeding apparatus

(57) Described herein is a sheet feeding apparatus (70) in which a trailing vacuum plenum (84,92) moves in unison with a guide (78) which engages an edge of a stack (32) to align the sheets thereof. The trailing edge vacuum plenum (84,92) is positioned over the stack (32) to acquire a trailing portion of a sheet. The sheet feeding apparatus (70) includes a leading vacuum plenum

(104,106) positioned over the stack (32) to acquire a leading portion of the sheet. A sheet transport (72) advances the sheet acquired by the leading vacuum plenum (104,106) from the stack (32). Fluffer jets (94,96) are employed to inject air between the leading portion and trailing portion of the sheet to assist the sheet transport (72).

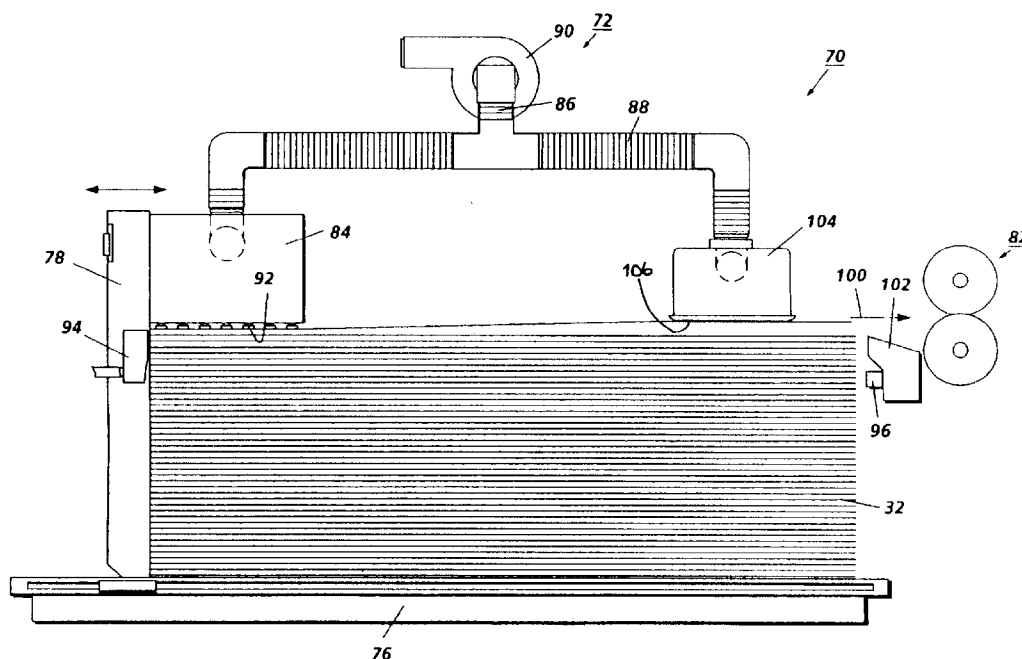


FIG. 1

EP 0 762 227 A3



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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 96 30 6202

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A	EP 0 272 153 A (XEROX CORP) 22 June 1988 * column 1, line 8 - line 30; figures 1,2 *	1	G03G15/00 B65H3/08 B65H3/48
D,A	--- US 4 451 028 A (HOLMES MAURICE F ET AL) 29 May 1984 * figure 1 *	1	
A	--- CH 479 474 A (MILLER PRINTING MACHINERY CO.) 15 October 1969 * figure 1 *	1	
A	--- US 5 150 892 A (SHIMIZU TADAFUMI) 29 September 1992 * figure 2 *	1	
A	--- US 1 718 581 A (W. ROCKSTROH) 25 June 1929 * figure 1 * -----	1	
			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			G03G B65H
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search BERLIN		Date of completion of the search 15 April 1997	Examiner Hoppe, H
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application I : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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